

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 03459 031605Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 /076 W
-----104971 040324Z /62

R 031243Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9946
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3459

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJECT: HORSE-TRADING CONTINUES TO FORM GOVERNMENT IN MAHARASHTRA

REF: NEW DELHI 3376; BOMBAY 542 (NOTAL

1. THE ALMOST BYZANTINE MANEUVERING AMONG POLITICAL
PARTIES TO FORM A GOVERNMENT IN MAHARASHTRA CONTINUES
WITH NO CLEAR RESOLUTION IN SIGHT. THE SITUATION IS
EVEN MORE FLUID AND CONFUSED THAN YESTERDAY. LAST NIGHT
IT APPEARED THAT CONGRESS(R) AND CONGRESS (I) WERE ON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 03459 031605Z

THE BRINK OF AGREEING TO A JOINT COALITION GOVERNMENT
IN THE STATE UNDER WHICH OUTGOING CONGRESS (R) CHIEF
MINISTER VASANTDADA PATIL WOULD BE THE CHIEF MINISTER,
A CONGRESS (I) FIGURE WOULD BE DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER
AND THE MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS WOULD BE EQUALLY DIVIDED
BETWEEN THE TWO CONGRESSES. YET, WITHIN HOURS AFTER
THE MORNING PAPERS HIT THE STREETS REPORTING THIS

DEVELOPMENT, THE "UNDERSTANDING" SUDDENLY COLLAPSED. PATIL ANNOUNCED IN DELHI THAT MRS. GANDHI'S TERMS FOR FORMING A CONGRESS (R)/CONGRESS (I) MINISTRY WERE "UNACCEPTABLE" AND HE DEPARTED FOR BOMBAY IN A HUFF. A VERY WELL-CONNECTED JOURNALIST IN DELHI TELLS US THAT THE ARRANGEMENT FOUNDERED LAST NIGHT WHEN MRS. GANDHI DEMANDED THAT PATIL SIGN A LETTER ADDRESSED TO HER AS THE HEAD OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS AND GRANTING HER FULL POWER TO SETTLE ANY DISPUTES WITHIN THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. MRS. GANDHI IN EFFECT DEMANDED AN ABJECT SURRENDER BY THE CONGRESS (R) TO HER CLAIM OF BEING THE "REAL" CONGRESS, AS WELL AS FULL VETO POWER OVER POLICY-MAKING IN MAHARASHTRA. WE HAVE HEARD A SIMILAR ACCOUNT OF THE BREAKDOWN FROM A CONGRESS (R) MP WHO IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO MRS. GANDHI. HIS NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD AN "UNDERSTANDING" WITH MRS. GANDHI IN MAHARASHTRA, WHICH HE SAID WAS SHARED BY MANY OTHERS IN THE PARTY, SUGGESTS THAT THERE MAY BE A CERTAIN STIFFENING OF RESOLVE IN THE CONGRESS (U) RANKS AFTER THE INITIAL PANIC OF THE POST-ELECTORAL DAYS HAD DISSIPATED. DESPITE THIS BREAKDOWN, LATE REPORTS INDICATE THAT NEW EFFORTS ARE UNDER WAY TO FORM A COALITION MINISTRY OF THE TWO CONGRESSES IN THE STATE. CONGEN BOMBAY REPORTS THAT SIMILAR CONFUSION PREVAILS IN MAHARASHTRA OVER MINISTRY FORMATION AND THAT THE CITY IS RIFE WITH

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 03459 031605Z

CONFLICTING STORIES.

2. MEANWHILE, JANATAS EFFORTS TO FORM A GOVERNMENT ON ITS OWN IN THE STATE WITH THE HELP OF ALLIES AND INDEPENDENTS CONTINUE. WE CONTINUE TO HEAR REPORTS THAT JANATA IS ATTEMPTING TO WOO SOME 10 TO 20 CONGRESS (R) LEGISLATORS INTO ITS CAMP IN ORDER TO CREATE A LARGER AND MORE STABLE MAJORITY.

GOHEEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE03459
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780098-0794
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803110/aaaadpac.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e19c24b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NEW DELHI 3376, 78 BOMBAY 542
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3128618
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HORSE-TRADING CONTINUES TO FORM GOVERNMENT IN MAHARASHTRA
TAGS: PINT, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e19c24b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014